Need for sophisticated weapons to policemen

693. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Guns that refuse to fire at the right time" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 23rd January, 2002;

(b) whether it is true that the assailants went unchecked and unhindered as the rifles, which policemen were having did not fire and they had nothing to retaliate;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to provide the policemen with sophisticated and upto date weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As reported by the Government of West Bengal, the police forces at the time of attack by terrorists were equipped with .303 rifles, .38 revolvers, lathis & tear gas. The incident occured at the changeover time when the police contingent on duty was being replaced by a new contingent.

(d) On the request of the State Government, sophisticated weapons, *viz.* 7.62 mm SLRs and 5.56 mm INSAS rifles have been allotted to West Bengal Police as a part of the modernisation of the State Police.

Madarsas in West Bengal

694. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Madarsas in the districts of West Bengal, bordering Bangladesh;

(b) The number of Madarsas and Masjids which are registered and the number of unregistered Madarsas;

(c) whether these Madarsas received funds from foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the names of countries sending funds to these Madarsas with funds received during the last three years, year-wise?